Increase in leprosy

1160. SHRIABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leprosy affected people in the country have been increasing;

(b) if so, whether in some States leprosy affected people are increasing rapidly;

(c) whether the WHO and other US organizations have extended financial and other help to India to fight with the disease; and

(d) if so, the details of such help extended during the last three years and the manner in which Government utilized the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact there has been a declining trend in so far as number of leprosy patients are concerned.

(c) and (d) The help extended by the WHO is in the form of free Anti leprosy drugs, the value of which supplied dunng the last 3 years is given below:

	Rs. in crores.
2000-01	20.00
2001-02	11.74
2002-03	10.00

These drugs are supplied free of cost to all the States/UTs as per their requirement.

Health as most corrupt sector

1161. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article on the state of medical practices published in the 3rd February, 2003 issue of the Outlook magazine, concluding that health to be one of India's top corrupt sectors;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;